



ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT FORM FOR PROPOSED CODE CHANGES

(This form must be submitted electronically)

IRC-37, R202

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Proposed Code Change - Language

Section R202 Definitions

PORCH. A one-story roofed structure adjoining an entrance to a dwelling where the roof is supported by the building and/or columns, the floor is supported by the building and/or a foundation system, and there are no enclosing elements except for the walls of the dwelling and required guards. Structures enclosed with windows and/or insect screening shall be considered rooms (not be considered a porch).

Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason

There is a need for the proposed definition because the term “porch” is frequently used in the IRC and in ICC Evaluation Service Reports and there is no definition for the term “porch” in the IRC. The proposed definition comes largely from Webster’s Dictionary. The term “porch” is used twenty-three times in the IRC. Some code officials are of the opinion that a “porch” is always an enclosed addition such as a “sun porch”. These structures are most appropriately called room additions or similar. An example of the confusion that has occurred is the Minnesota amendment made to the requirements for installation of smoke alarms when there are additions, alterations, and repairs. That was made necessary because the IRC excludes requirements for updating smoke alarms when a porch is added. Some people believed that a porch included a room, which resulted in an unnecessary amendment to the smoke alarm rules. Neither Webster nor common industry use of the term includes the word “porch” as an enclosed addition. ICC uses the term “porch” in dozens of evaluation reports as do manufacturers of composite decking materials. This definition is necessary to create some uniformity in code interpretations and to prevent unnecessary regulations from being imposed. The definition is reasonable because it is based on language found in Webster and how the term is used by ICC and industry.

Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis

This proposal will have no impact on the cost of construction.

Other Factors to Consider Related to Proposed Code Change

1. Is this proposed code change meant to:

☐ change language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

☐ change language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

☐ delete language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

☐ delete language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

☒ neither; this language will be new language, not found in the code book or in Minnesota Rule.

2. Is this proposed code change required by a Minnesota Statute or new legislation? If so, please provide the citation to the Statute or legislation.

No

3. Will this proposed code change impact other sections of a published code book or of an amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, please list the affected sections or rule parts.

No

4. Will this proposed code change impact other parts of the Minnesota State Building Code? If so, please list the affected parts of the Minnesota State Building Code.

No

5. Who are the parties affected or segments of industry affected by this proposed code change?

Code officials, building designers, contractors, building owners

6. Can you think of other means or methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed code change? If so, please explain what they are and why your proposed change is the preferred method or means to achieve the desired result.

No

7. Are you aware of any federal requirement or regulation related to this proposed code change? If so, please list the regulation or requirement.

No